~~TOP SECRET~~

[redacted]

~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

[redacted]

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

February 16, 1973

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of January 16, 1973 referring to the Taking Stock memoranda which I prepared for the Secretary of Defense.

I share the concern you expressed in your letter and during our meeting on February 2 about maintaining control over sensitive documents such as these in this day and age. In answer to your question, nineteen copies of the memoranda were distributed outside the National Reconnaissance Office; I have attached a list of the recipients. I believe that we are fortunate, indeed, that in more than twelve years of satellite reconnaissance we have never had a major breach of security. During this period of time an ever increasing number of people have become exposed to the Program and much detailed information has been documented. Thus, the potential certainly does exist for serious compromise.

There is, I believe, worthwhile trade-off between very tight security control and dissemination of potentially very useful information to make better use of national resources. The addressees for the Taking Stock papers are those who are in a position to benefit from their contents. I am inclined to leave the papers in their custody, for their continuing use. If you feel otherwise, I will consider the recall of some or all of the distributed copies.

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I greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Board on Friday, February 2. I believe that our discussions were as productive at this meeting as they have ever been.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

John L. McLucas

1 Attachment
Distribution List

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Chairman, President's Foreign
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Washington, D. C. 20500

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